

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-11 were previously cancelled.

Claim 12 is currently amended.

Claims 14, 22, 24 and 27 were previously presented.

Claims 12, 13, 15-21, 23, 25, 26, and 28-31 are withdrawn.

Upon entry of the amended claims 12-31 will be pending with claims 14, 22, 24 and 27 under active consideration.

Claim 12 was amended to clarify claim language and is supported by original claim 12 and the specification.

No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

The office has rejected claims 14, 22, 24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ashai Dow (JP 56-161160) and Breulmann (US 2003/0105225).

The office rejected claims 14, 22, 24 and 27 because the office has constructed claim 12 such that the claim is drawn to either (a) a composite layered sweet or (b) a composite layer film and a backing layer. Based on the construction of claim 12 and the description provided in the specification, Applicants disagree with this construction. Applicants submit that the composite layered sheet and a backing layer is the proper claim construction.

However, in the interest of advancing prosecution applicants have amended claim 12 to clarify this claim construction.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the office has indicated that amended claim 12 distinguishes over the cited references. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the office withdraw the rejections of claims 14, 22, 24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ashai Dow and Breulmann.

Finally, Applicants request that, should the office allow claims 14, 22, 24 and 27, that the office expand its search to the non-elected species in claims 12, 13, 15-17, 19-21, 23, 25, 26 and 28-30 and rejoin process claims 18 and 31.

In light of the remarks above, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 12810-00006-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 30, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Donald K. Drummond,
Ph.D./

Donald K. Drummond, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 52,834

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1875 Eye Street, NW

Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 331-7111

(202) 293-6229 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant